

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00318 081644Z

64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 078273

R 081120Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2506

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0318

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: FIRST AFRICAN POLITICAL RALLY SPONSORED BY GUMO

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 302

1. ON MAY 3, GUMO ORGANIZED WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE FIRST LARGE AFRICAN POLITICAL MEETING EVER HELD IN MOZAMBIQUE. MEETING (MENTIONED IN REFTTEL) WAS HELD BEFORE CROWD ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 10,000 ON FOOTBALL FIELD IN XIPAMANINE, ONE OF AFRICAN SECTIONS OF LOURENCO MARQUES. MEETING HAS BEEN WIDELY MIS-REPORTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AS HAVING BEEN SCENE OF CLASH BETWEEN FRELIMO SYMPATHIZERS AND POLICE, AND AS HAVING BROKEN UP IN DISORDER. UNUSUAL EVENT ALSO GAVE RISE TO RUMORS AMONG SOME NERVOUS MEMBERS OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO EFFECT THAT AFRICANS WERE PLANNING VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, INCLUDING ONE HORROR STORY, ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION, THAT AFRICANS "WERE GOING WILD" BREAKING WINDOWS DOWNTOWN, OVERTURNING CARS, ETC. ACTUALLY, AS WILL BE SEEN BELOW, AFFAIR WAS SOMEWHAT TAME AND UNINSPIRING, ACCORDING TO EYE WITNESSES, ALTHOUGH DR. JOANA SIMIAO, GUMO VICE PRESIDENT, TOLD US SHE REGARDED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LOUREN 00318 081644Z

IT AS A SUCCESS, CONSIDERING SIZE OF CROWD AND THAT IT WAS

THE FIRST TIME MOST OF THE AFRICAN SPECTATORS HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO THE FREE EXPRESSION OF VIEWS.

2. AT MEETING, DR. SIMIAO SPOKE FIRST, GIVING SIMPLIFIED HISTORY OF GUMO, SHE URGED MOZAMBICANS TO VOTE FOR LEADERS OF GUMO IN ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND TO MOZAMBIQUE'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY; EXHORTED GUMO MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TO REFRAIN FROM ATTACKING THEIR ASIATIC AND WHITE BROTHERS; AND DECLARED THAT, ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM STRANGE AND CONTRADICTIONARY, ONLY SPINOLA AND JUNTA CAN PREVENT ADVENTURES SUCH AS THAT OF IAN SMITH AND HIS UDI.

3. JORGE ABREU, APPEARING FOR FIRST TIME EVER IN OPEN NECKED SHIRT, DELIVERED RAMBLING, INEFFECTIVE SPEECH TO WHICH CROWD PAID LITTLE ATTENTION.

4. MAXIMO DIAS, GUMO PRESIDENT, DELIVERED EMOTIONALLY CHARGED SPEECH FULL OF VAGUE, IDEALISTIC DEFINITIONS OF WHAT GUMO REPRESENTS - E.G. "GUMO IS GUARANTEE OF AUTHENTICITY OF MOZAMBICANS ... GUMO IS MOZAMBIQUE AND BELONGS TO ALL ... GUMO IS IDEA OF PEACE, HARMONY, AND LIBERTY ... GUMO IS ONLY AVENUE FOR PEACE, ONLY IMAGE OF UNCOMPROMISED, JUST (MOVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE) ROOTED IN MOZAMBIQUE TO SERVE ALL MOZAMBICANSEQUALLY." MORE SPECIFICALLY, DIAS URGED MOZAMBICANS ABROAD, PARTICULARLY UNION OF STUDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE (UNEMO), TO RETURN TO HELP RECONSTRUCT BETTER MOZAMBIQUE; DECLARED THAT GUMO IS NOT AGAINST IDEAL OF JUSTICE OF FRELIMO, INASMUCH AS BOTH GUMO AND FRELIMO WERE BUILT OF SOCIAL INJUSTICES; WARNED AGAINST REACTIONARY FORCES ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE MOZAMBIQUE; AND CONDEMNED THOSE WHO ENRICHED THEMSELVES AT EXPENSE OF POOR MOZAMBICANS AND TRANSFERRED FUNDS ABROAD.

5. MOST FLAGRANT EXAMPLE OF INACCURATE REPORTING WAS ACCOUNT OF XIPAMANINE MEETING APPEARING IN RAND DAILY MAIL OF MAY 6, PRESUMABLY SUBMITTED BY CORRESPONDENT DENNIS GORDON. ILLUSTRATED BY PHOTOS OF EXHILERATED AFRICANS WITH MISLEADING CAPTIONS, REPORT CLAIMED "ABOUT 10,000 ENTHUSIASTIC BLACKS SCREAMED SUPPORT FOR FRELIMO", AND "CORPS OF FIFTY BANNER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LOUREN 00318 081644Z

WAVING FRELIMO SUPPORTERS SCREAMED SLOGANS BEFORE RALLYING THE CROWD BEHIND THEM", CONTINUING THAT "AFTER RALLY BROKE DOWN IN SHAMBLES, THROG SURGED THROUGH THE STREETS YELLING "FRELIMO" FRELIMO". SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING BY CORRESPONDENT WHO PROBABLY SPEAKS NO PORTUGUESE AND WHO PROBABLY HAS HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE OBSERVING AFRICAN CROWDS, COULD STIR UP READERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND LEAD TO FAULTY APPRAISALS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE.

6. DESPITE THE LARGE CROWD GUMO MANAGED TO ATTRACT, SEEMS CLEAR MEETING WAS LESS THAN COMPLETE SUCCESS. CROWD HAD DIFFICULTY HEARING SPEECHES DUE TO NOISE AND POOR LOUD-SPEAKERS (WHICH REPORTEDLY BROKE DOWN BEFORE MEETING ENDED). WHILE THERE WAS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF BARRACKING BY GROUP OF ABOUT THIRTY AFRICANS, CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE AS FRELIMO SYMPATHIZERS, WHO INTERRUPTED SPEAKERS WITH PRO-FRELIMO CHANTING, AND BY SHOUTING "FORA GUMO"(GUMO GET OUT), THERE WAS NOTHING LIKE THE "THOUSANDS" OF DISSENTERS REPORTED IN SOME NEWSPAPERS OR ANYTHING REQUIRING POLICE INTERVENTION. ONLY NEAR VIOLENCE OCCURRED WHEN TRUCK CARRYING PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CORRESPONDENTS ALMOST RAN DOWN THE FRELIMO GROUP, THUS PROVOKING ANGRY REACTION. GUMO, UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED BY THE INACCURATE REPORTING, WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTED TO INFLUENCE OF A "MAOIST" REPORTER REPRESENTING ESPRESSO, PUBLISHED STATEMENT ON MAY 4 ASSERTING THAT DEGREE OF OPPOSITION AT MEETING HAD BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND THAT DR. SIMIAO HAD NEEDED NO POLICE PROTECTION. ON CONTRARY, SHE CLAIMED SHE HAD BEEN CARRIED IN TRIUMPH ON SHOULDERS OF SOME MACUA COMPATRIOTS. ACCORDING TO CONGEN OFFICER, AND OTHERS WHO ATTENDED RALLY, MOST OF CROWD SEEMED POLITICALLY APATHETIC, AND DRAWN BY HOPE OF SEEING SOME UNUSUAL SPECTACLE. PEOPLE MILLED AROUND AIMLESSLY, TALKING TO FRIENDS, FEEDING BABIES, VISIBLY BORED BY AFFAIR THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND. SOME OF THE FEW WHITES PRESENT WERE PROBABLY CONCERNED BY DEMAGOGIC TONE OF DIAS SPEECH AND HIS SOMEWHAT CASUISTIC IDENTIFICATION WITH FRELIMO.

7. COMMENT: MAIN SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING, APART FROM FACT THAT IT OCCURRED AT ALL, WAS SUCCESS GUMO HAD IN ATTRACTING LARGEST GROUP OF AFRICANS EVER TO ASSEMBLE FOR POLITICAL RALLY IN MOZAMBIQUE. ALSO OF INTEREST WAS THE FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04

E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, PARTY MEETINGS, POLITICAL FREEDOM, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740112-0059
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740565/aaaacfzi.tel
Line Count: 148
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LOURENCO MARQUES 302
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST AFRICAN POLITICAL RALLY SPONSORED BY GUMO
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MZ, GUMO, FRELIMS, (SIMIAN, JOANA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005